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## CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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## INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Hungary

SUBJECT Signal Corps Training Unit

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1. The central training school of the Hungarian Signal Corps is at Budapest, in the barracks at Kelenföld. The training unit is organized as a battalion, [REDACTED] There is a refresher course and a large training section of two-company strength. The refresher course lasts three months.
  2. Enlisted men are given six months' technical schooling; noncommissioned officers and the permanent teaching personnel of the school receive a year's training. The enlisted personnel of the unit is drawn from the technical services, such as radio technicians and mechanics. An hour a day is devoted to political schooling, and another hour to lectures on Communism.
  3. Cipher experts are also trained in the school. A number of Russian systems are taught, but these systems with their manifold complications and variations, have not been very successful in the Hungarian Army. It is often found necessary in communications service to return to plain text because the soldiers are unable to make anything out of the enciphered messages. Deciphering is done with the aid of a table and a movable screen, used in combination.
  4. The school is adequately equipped with both Hungarian and Russian communications apparatus of all kinds. The use of equipment is not spared. The unit is fully motorized.
  5. The commander of the unit is Lieutenant Colonel Géza Pongrácz, a former radio engineer in a modern Hungarian factory. He was a reserve lieutenant in the old Royal Army. He was chosen as commander and promoted to the rank of staff officer on account of his technical ability. The deputy commander is Major E. Mader, who is also a first class radio technician and who was a signal officer in the pre-war army. He has escaped the political purge so far because of his technical knowledge.

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6. Officers are seldom dismissed from the school because it is not desired to impair the results of the technical training by too frequent changes of personnel. The present staff is reported to include a captain, two first lieutenants, five lieutenants, and five or seven second lieutenants.

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